

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 GUATEM 05845 230418Z

12

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-05 /084 W

----- 094537

R 221900Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8647

INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GUATEMALA 5845

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PBOR, GT, UK, BH, MX

SUBJ: BELIZE: PRESS REPORTS

REF: MEXICO 9158

1. AFTERNOON NEWSPAPER LA HORA OF OCT 21 CARRIED ALARMIST FRONT-PAGE STORY HEADLINED "WARLIKE MOBILIZATION BY THE ENGLISH IN BELIZE". STORY QUOTED INFORMATION FROM BELIZE SAYING THAT AIRLIFTED TROOPS, CANBERRA AIRPLANES, AN AIRCRAFT CARRIER, TWO BATTLESHIPS, WARPLANES, AND "PUMA" HELICOPTERS HAD ARRIVED IN BELIZE. BELIZE AIR-PORT REPORTED "HEAVILY FORTIFIED" AND CURFEW SAID TO HAVE BEEN IMPOSED THERE.

2. LA HORA STORY ADDED THAT RELIABLE SOURCES IN GUATEMALA SAID THAT ARMY WAS "REINFORCING ITS TROOPS IN TOWNS BORDER-ING ON THE TERRITORY OF BELIZE, AS A PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE."

3. LA HORA STORY IGNORED STATEMENTS MADE BY FONMIN MOLINA AT OCT 21 PRESS CONF. WHICH WERE PICKED  
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PAGE 02 GUATEM 05845 230418Z

UP IN ALL OTHER PAPERS. EL GRAFICO OF OCT 22

QUOTED MOLINA AS SAYING THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO RE-  
INFORCEMENT OF BRITISH TROOPS IN BLIZE. LA NACION  
OF OCT 22 HAD MOLINA SAYING THAT THE BRITISH TROOPS  
ARE THE SAME AS BEFORE, AND THAT THERE HAS BEEN "NO  
INDICATION THAT THEY HAVE BEEN AUGMENTED OR WILL BE  
AT A NEAR DATE." OCT 22 STORY IN PRENSA LIBRE  
CARRIED SIMILAR STATEMENT BY MOLINA, BUT IN ADDITION  
QUOTED AN OFFICIAL ARMY SPOKESMAN AS DENYING THAT GOG  
MILITARY CONTINGENTS HAD BEEN CONCENTRATED NEAR BELIZE.

4. STORIES OF MEXICAN FONSEC RABASA'S STATEMENTS RE-  
MUDDYING THE WATERS IN REGARD TO MEXICO'S POLICY TOWARD  
BELIZE (REFTEL) HAVE BEEN PICKED UP IN GUATEMALA.  
GUATEMALAN OFFICIALS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY  
SURPRISE. AT HIS OCT 21 PRESS CONF. MOLINA  
DENIED HAVING ANY "OFFICIAL" INFO OF THE RABASA  
STATEMENT, BUT COMMENTED THAT IF RABASA'S REPORTED  
STATEMENTS WERE TRUE, THEY WOULD BE CONTRADICTORY TO  
THOSE RECENTLY MADE BY MEXICAN PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA.

5. COMMENT: THE FLAP OVER THE RABASA STATEMENT MAY  
HELP DEFLECT PRESS COVERAGE AWAY FROM REPORTS OF A  
BRITISH BUILDUP IN BELIZE. IT IS WORTHWHILE NOTING  
THAT ALTHOUGH FONMIN MOLINA KNOWS OF THE ARRIVAL OF THE  
ADDITIONAL BRITISH HELICOPTERS AND SUPPORT TROOPS,  
HE HAS PREFERRED TO DENY THEIR ARRIVAL RATHER THAN  
RISK OR ENCOURAGE A MAJOR PRESS UPROAR. END COMMENT.  
MELOY

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, BOUNDARY CLAIMS, COMBAT OPERATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 OCT 1975  
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**Disposition Authority:** greeneet  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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